

## QC No Name-Calling Week - the Week of February 20, 2006

*No Name-Calling Week* is an annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate bullying in our communities. We are promoting a *No Name-Calling Week* here the week of February 20, although we encourage schools to have the event whenever it works best for them.

*No Name-Calling Week* seeks to draw national attention to the problem of name-calling in schools and to provide students and educators with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate name-calling in their communities. The project (sponsored by GLSEN and Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, in collaboration with more than 40 national education organizations) was inspired by *The Misfits*, a book written by award-winning author James Howe and published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. **On February 22, James Howe will be in Davenport to take part in a Safe Schools event (see attached information on that event).**

Results from bullying surveys in schools indicated that students report a significant decrease in the amount of bullying and harassment in school after taking part in the first *No Name-Calling Week* and its activities. More than 5,000 educators and administrators and thousands more schools and classrooms will use free resources from [www.nonamecallingweek.org](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org) to take part. "We are proud to once again collaborate with our national partners, from the Girls Scouts of America, the National Education Association and more than other 40 others, to bring **No Name-Calling Week** to schools around the country," noted GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings. "Every week can and should be a No Name-Calling Week in America's schools."

Students, in their own words, also had an opportunity to discuss the impact *No Name-Calling Week* made in their schools and their lives. Students from the Merrill Middle School in Des Moines, which submitted the 2005 Grand Prize-winning entry in the *No Name-Calling Week* lesson plan contest, said:

"You gave me a new ambition, to go out into the hallways and stop people that bully others and make people with few friends feel like I can be a friend to them. Especially if they are big picking on the little."

"We've grown from this bullying unit so much. My friends and I are more careful about what we say and how we treat others. Since this unit, we've learned that what we say about people hurts them more than we think it does...No one deserves to get made fun of!"

"This motivated me to befriend someone who looks left out."

For more information about *No Name-Calling Week* sponsors, a list of events planned, or the *No Name-Calling Week* resource kit for educators, please continue to visit [www.nonamecallingweek.org](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org).

For more information about these events, call Cathy Bolkcom at 563-289-4155 or email [cbarts4@aol.com](mailto:cbarts4@aol.com) or call Progressive Action at 563-676-7580 or Brad Clarke at (515) 243-1221.